

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Harmon Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

108-112 North Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-323

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harmon Building is located on the east side of North Commerce Street in Centreville, approximately one-half block north of the intersection with Railroad Avenue.

Constructed in 1885, the Harmon Building is a large Victorian commercial building, with three separate shops on the first floor and apartments on the second floor. It is constructed of brick with a cove-mansard roof of slate. The dominant architectural features of the building are the bracketed cornice, the slate mansard roof, and a projecting bay window with a stylish turret above at the north end of the street facade.

The street front, as noted, is divided into three individual stores. Starting from the south end, Pippin's Apparel occupies 108 North Commerce Street, Tubman Insurance is in 110, and The Robin's Nest is in 112. Of the three storefronts, 110 remains virtually intact, 112 has been partially altered and 108 has been significantly renovated, probably in the early 20th century. In addition to the storefronts, individual doors lead up to the second story apartments. One door is located

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

between 108 and 110, the other is at the north end of 112. More detailed descriptions of each storefront follow:

108 North Commerce Street: This shop front evidently was renovated in the early 20th century. A pressed tin cornice supported by simple brackets at each end now stretches across the facade. The recessed double entrance doors are located in the north bay with large shop windows to the south. A separate, single exterior door at the north end of the facade opens into a narrow stairhall that leads to the second story.

110 North Commerce Street: This facade remains essentially intact to 1885. The entrance door is recessed in the center of the facade, framed with sidelights and a transom and flanked with large shop windows. A bracketed cornice is carried across the shop front with one large bracket at each end directly above molded pilasters. Smaller brackets are carried across the facade below the deep soffit of the molded cornice.

112 North Commerce Street: The entrance is in the center of the facade with a large shop window to the right and a small window to the left. The left or north window has been significantly reduced in size to allow the insertion of a door and stairhall leading to the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

second story. The bracketed cornice remains on this shop front, but all other original detail has been altered or removed.

The second story of the front facade is laid in stretcher bond with very smooth, machine-made Victorian bricks and thin, tight mortar joints. A double 1/1 window is centered above the first floor entrance to 108, a single 1/1 window is centered over the apartment door to the north of 108, and a double 1/1 window is centered above the door to 110. These window openings have shallow segmental arched lintels with stone dressings. A semi-octagonal projecting bay is centered over the door to 112 at the north end of the building. This projecting bay has single 1/1 windows centered on each of the three principal facets and is capped with a fanciful octagonal Victorian turret. A datestone set in the brickwork at the north end of the second story is inscribed

HARMON BUILDING

1885

The pattern of the second story window openings is repeated on the third story mansard roof. As with the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

second story, the middle window consists of a single set of sash, flanked on either side by double windows. Narrow Victorian dormer windows further embellish the front three facets of the octagonal turret.

The slate mansard roof is laid in a decorative pattern, alternating square butt slates with hexagonal pattern slates and employing color patterns to a limited extent as well. A bracketed cornice is carried across the eave of the mansard and a simple box cornice with moldings forms a cap for the roof.

The side walls of the building are laid in brick, with limited openings on the south wall, adjacent to 106 North Commerce Street. On the north wall, a narrow one story structure has been inserted into the original alley, blocking the first floor. The north wall of the Harmon Building jogs to the north, and windows in the second and third story provide added light to the interior. The mansard roof and bracketed cornice are carried across the north wall.

The rear facade is three stories high, laid in plain common bond, with banks of 1/1 windows. A brick, two story flounder wing projects from the north end of this facade; a frame two story wing with a pitched gable roof projects from the south end.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harmon Building was constructed in 1885 by Walter F. Harmon, a prominent local businessman. It is the largest Victorian commercial building in Centreville and is one of the most richly detailed. Two of the three storefronts remain largely intact and the upper stories and the decorative corner turret are virtually untouched.

The Harmon Building was constructed on three adjoining lots purchased by Walter Harmon between 1878 and 1885.⁽¹⁾ Harmon died in 1890 but the property remained in the family until 1920, when it was sold to Bessie Cahill for \$18,500.⁽²⁾ In 1922 the Cahills sold the middle third of the building to Bessie Eaton⁽³⁾ and in 1929 sold the south third to Tony Kontos, who operated the New York Restaurant.⁽⁴⁾ The north end of the building was at that time occupied by the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.⁽⁵⁾

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds, JW 8, folio 419. Sept. 26, 1878.
SCD 6, folio 175. April 18, 1885.
WD 1, folio 409. June 9, 1885.
- (2) Deeds, JFR 4, folio 18. January 8, 1920.
- (3) Deeds, JFR 8, folio 518. April 22, 1922.
- (4) Deeds, BHT 9, folio 167. January 25, 1929.
- (5) see footnote 3 above.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA 323

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

9/17/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIX; Recorded August 12, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

QA-323
Harmory Building
108-112 N. Commerce
Street
Centreville

MAP 44-P.61
P.16

AGRICOL CHEMICAL CO.
CWC 32/22
P.9

AGRICOL CHEMICAL CO.
CWC 32/22
P.8

AGWAY, INC.
CWC 47/139
P.7

AGWAY, INC.
CWC 26/661
P.5

BEULAN P. JUMP
TSP 69/491-495
P.4

BEULAN P. JUMP
CWC 3/204
P.3

TURPINS LANE

STREET

HAYDEN STREET

ALSO

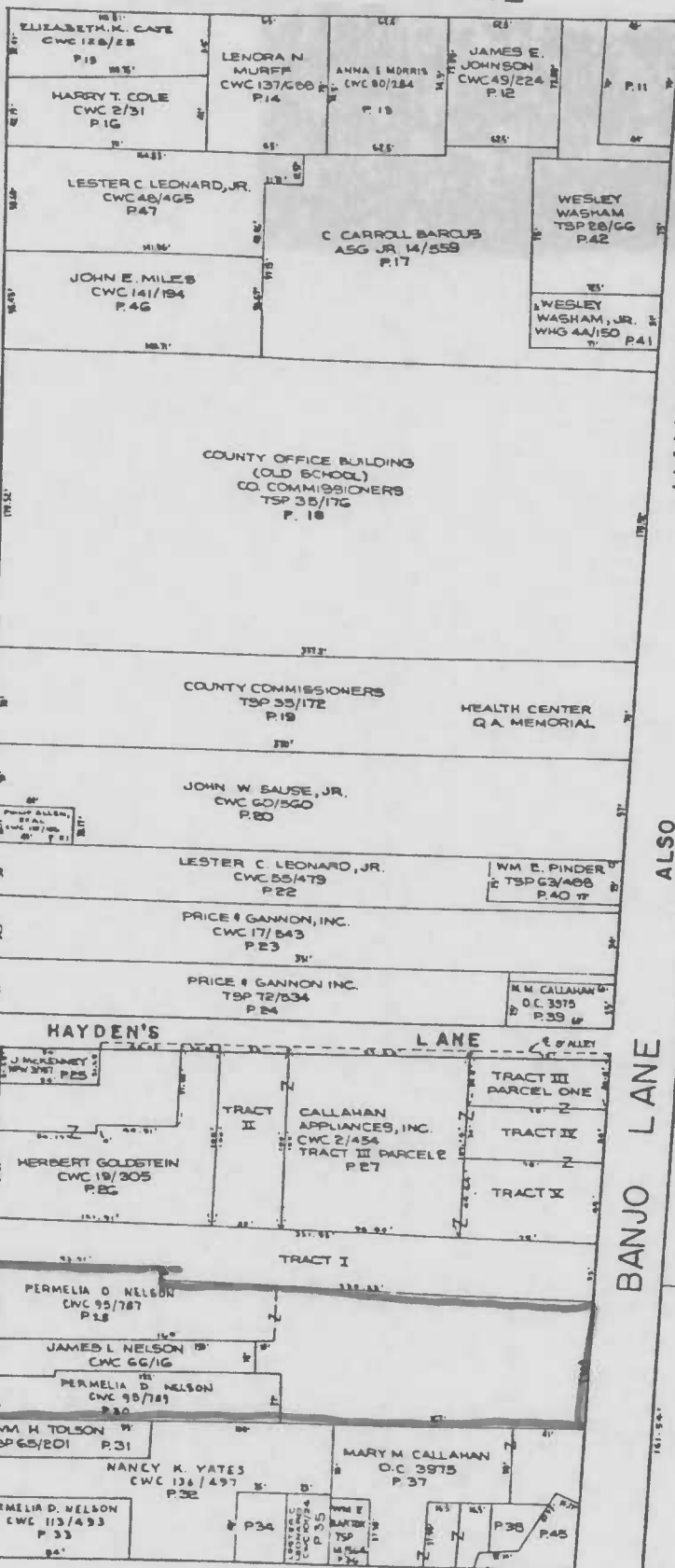
BANJO LANE

WATER STREET

BROADWAY

LAWYERS ROW

COMMERCE



QA-323
Harmon Building

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-323 Harmon Building
108-112 North Commerce St.
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Northwest